

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 695

By Walley

A RESOLUTION to honor Sheriff Eric O. Bell of Chester County
on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this legislative body recognize those who in
their years of work have performed with extraordinary dedication and devotion; and

WHEREAS, Eric Bell is one such outstanding person who has served with alacrity and
acuity for 24 years as Sheriff of Chester County; and

WHEREAS, born on November 25, 1937 in Chester County, Mr. Bell is the son of Lois
Robertson Bell and Horace Bell; and

WHEREAS, this distinguished citizen graduated from Chester County High School and
attended the University of Tennessee at Martin; and

WHEREAS, he proudly defended his country by serving four years in the United States
Air Force; and

WHEREAS, in 1962, Eric Bell married the former Christine Graves of Dyersburg, and the
couple's happy union produced two sons and one daughter; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Bell established a successful carpet and appliance business which he
operated until it was sold in 1978; and

WHEREAS, during the administration of former governor Winfield Dunn, he served with
acumen as the director of Hotel and Restaurant Inspection for the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, from 1966-1968, Eric Bell astutely served as a member of the Board of
Aldermen for the city of Henderson, Tennessee; and

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WHEREAS, he began his meritorious career as Chester County Sheriff in 1968, serving until 1970; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, Sheriff Bell again won election as Chester County Sheriff, where he has admirably served ever since; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Bell has been an active and vital member of numerous professional organizations, including the Board of Directors of the Tennessee Sheriff's Association, where he served with extraordinary expertise as President in 1996-1997; and

WHEREAS, he has also been the recipient of several awards and accolades, including being named "Citizen of the Year" of Chester County on three occasions; and

WHEREAS, Eric Bell is an active and devout member and trustee of the First Pentecostal Church of Henderson; and

WHEREAS, Sheriff Bell exemplifies the spirit and dedication that is characteristic of a great Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, his adroit qualities include the uncommon ability to motivate others to fully realize their potential, perhaps the most valuable of all skills; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we extend to Sheriff Eric O. Bell our deepest appreciation and best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement and continued success in future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.